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From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Fri 2/7/2014 8:58:31 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Update #25: Chemical Spill, Charleston, WV

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EOC Spot Report: WV – Update #25

Chemical Spill, Charleston, WV

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1600 February 7, 2014

Overview: On January 10, 2014 the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical, 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol, (MCHM) leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:

The facility is developing a plan to keep offsite water from flowing into the facility, rather it will be re-routed to discharge directly into the Elk River once analytical data shows

that it is clean. This would greatly reduce the amount of water currently being pumped and contained. With the rising water level in the Elk River, attention was focused on maintaining the booms along the affected shoreline. Additionally, preparations were made to minimize the amount of rainfall which could enter the interceptor trench. Plastic sheeting was placed over the surface of the impacted slope and over the trench, allowing fresh rainwater to bypass the trench system and flow directly into the Elk River. A vacuum hose was connected directly to the pipe discharging into the interceptor trench which reduced the volume of water entering the interceptor trench. These changes were made to reduce the chance of the excess water overwhelming the interceptor trench system.

The facility noted that they will submit, via e-mail, an inventory of the onsite tanks to the State and to EPA.

In response to Governor Tomblin's request for assistance, Region 3 has provided statisticians from the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, who will provide assistance to the WV Bureau for Public Health. The Bureau has been charged with developing a sampling plan to assess drinking water in homes served by the WV American Water Company. The facility has also indicated they have begun shipping product (MCHM/PPH blend) to the Poca facility.

Students were dismissed from five schools after detecting the licorice odor associated with MCHM and there were some complaints of burning eyes. MCHM was not detectable in previous sampling at the schools. At each school, the Bureau for Public Health and the National Guard will take samples for MCHM, assure that the school facilities are flushed, and re-sample after flushing.

EPA Action:

Region 3 reported that the facility's contractor completed purging monitoring wells 1, 2, and 7, which are located along the eastern side of the facility, between the containment wall and Barlow Road. The wells were left to re-charge, and samples were collected from the three monitoring wells. WVDEP collected split samples from each well. EPA collected a split sample from monitoring well 2, located nearest to tank 396.

Efforts continue to determine the source of the off-site water that is flowing beneath the containment pad. The facility is collecting water samples, clearing the ditch between the abandoned railroad tracks and Barlow Road, and dye testing the water. The facility also collected water from the area just inside the containment pad to determine if one of the sources of the off-site water is a public water line.

Region 3's Water Program reported that continued sampling at the WV American Water intake indicates MCHM and PPH are not detectable.

Media Interest: Medium

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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